

CHAPTER 18

MARINE FIRE

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CHAPTER 18

MARINE FIRE INCIDENT

INTRODUCTION

The marine fire incident chapter is designed to provide an organization structure that will provide supervision and control for the essential functions required at marine fire incidents. The response and organizational structure to a marine fire can vary widely depending on the location of the vessel and proximity to fire fighting resources, capabilities of the municipal and industrial fire departments, type of vessel, and nature of the cargo and source of the fire.

UNIFIED COMMAND

A marine fire can bring together a variety of entities depending on the variables discussed above. Although the Coast Guard does not directly conduct fire fighting, it does have a major role in coordination and support. For this reason, a vessel fire would most likely be managed under UC. A marine fire could bring to the scene fire departments, law enforcement, public health, technical cargo experts, industrial fire departments, and private fire fighting and salvage experts. If pollution and hazardous materials were involved, the agencies and complexity would escalate dramatically.

CHAPTER 18

MARINE FIRE INCIDENT

MARINE FIRE INCIDENT SCENARIO AND MODULAR ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT

MODULAR DEVELOPMENT

A series of examples of modular development are included to illustrate methods of expanding the incident organization.

INITIAL RESPONSE ORGANIZATION - The first to arrive Fire Department Company Officer will assume command of the incident as the IC. The IC will assume all Command and General Staff functions and responsibilities and manages initial response resources. See Page 18-5 for an example of the Initial Response Organization.

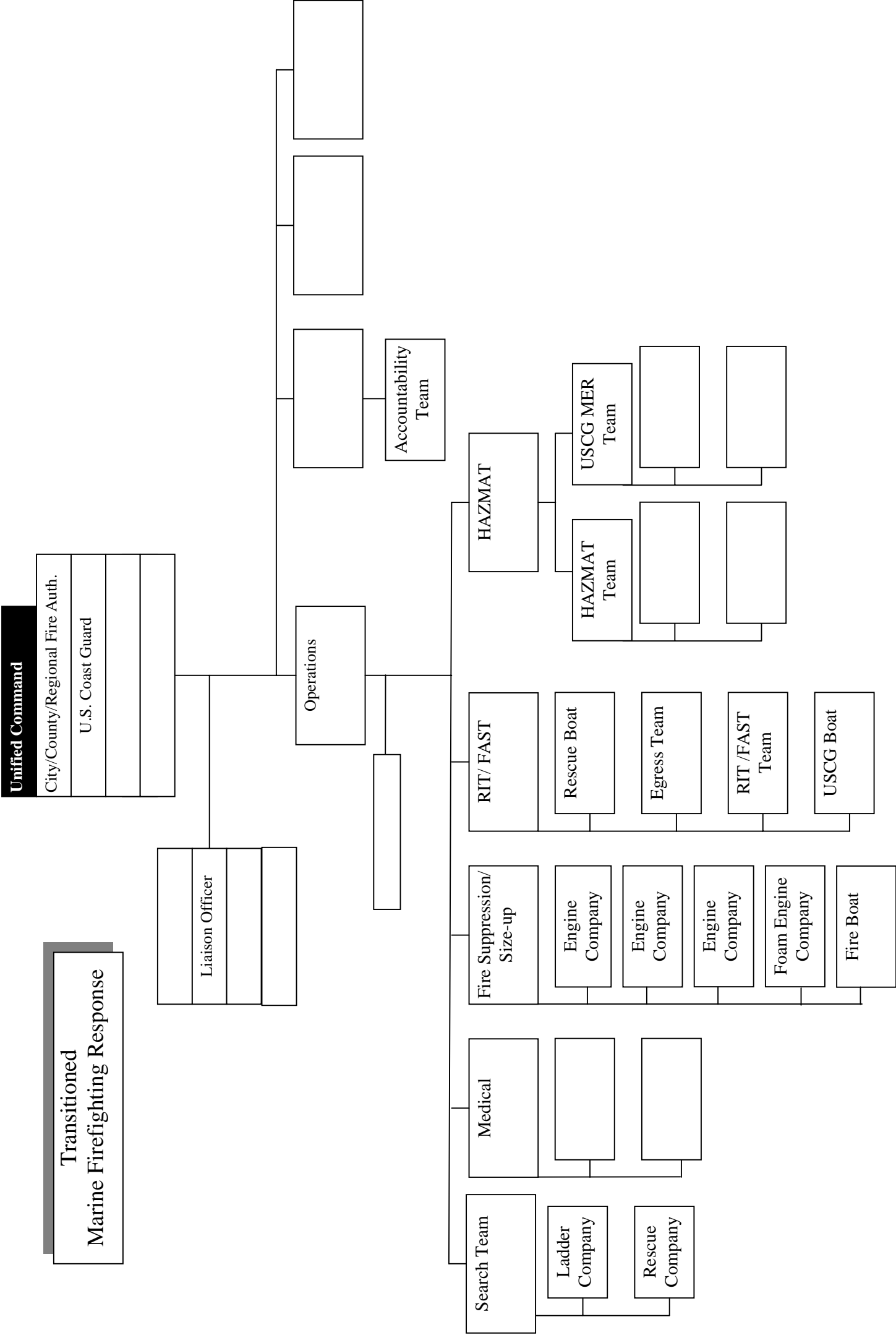
TRANSITIONED RESPONSE ORGANIZATION - The Coast Guard and Fire Department IC have met and established a UC. They have established Fire and Medical Groups. Waterborne resources have arrived and a SO has been assigned. See Page 18-6 for an example of the Transitioned Response Organization.

MULTI-DIVISION/GROUP ORGANIZATION - The UC has activated most Command and General Staff positions and has established a combination of divisions and groups. A water division and land staging

area have been established. See Page 18-7 for an example of the Multi-Division/Group Organization.

MULTI-ALARM ORGANIZATION - The UC has activated all Command and General Staff positions and has established multiple divisions. Branches would be created if span of control issues warranted. Water staging and stability/salvage groups were implemented. A Coast Guard Officer may serve as Deputy OPS. See Page 18-8 for an example of a Multi-Alarm Organization.

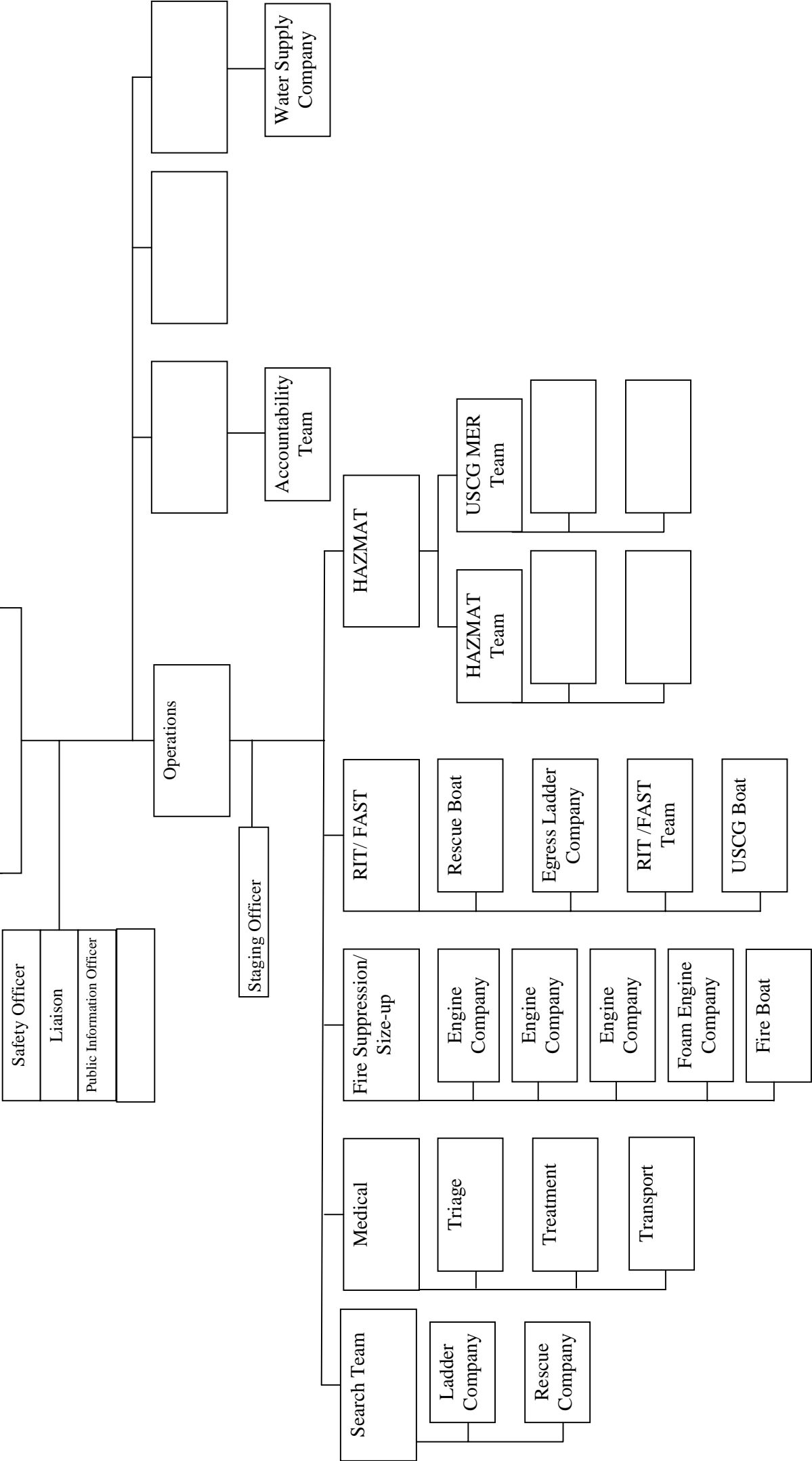


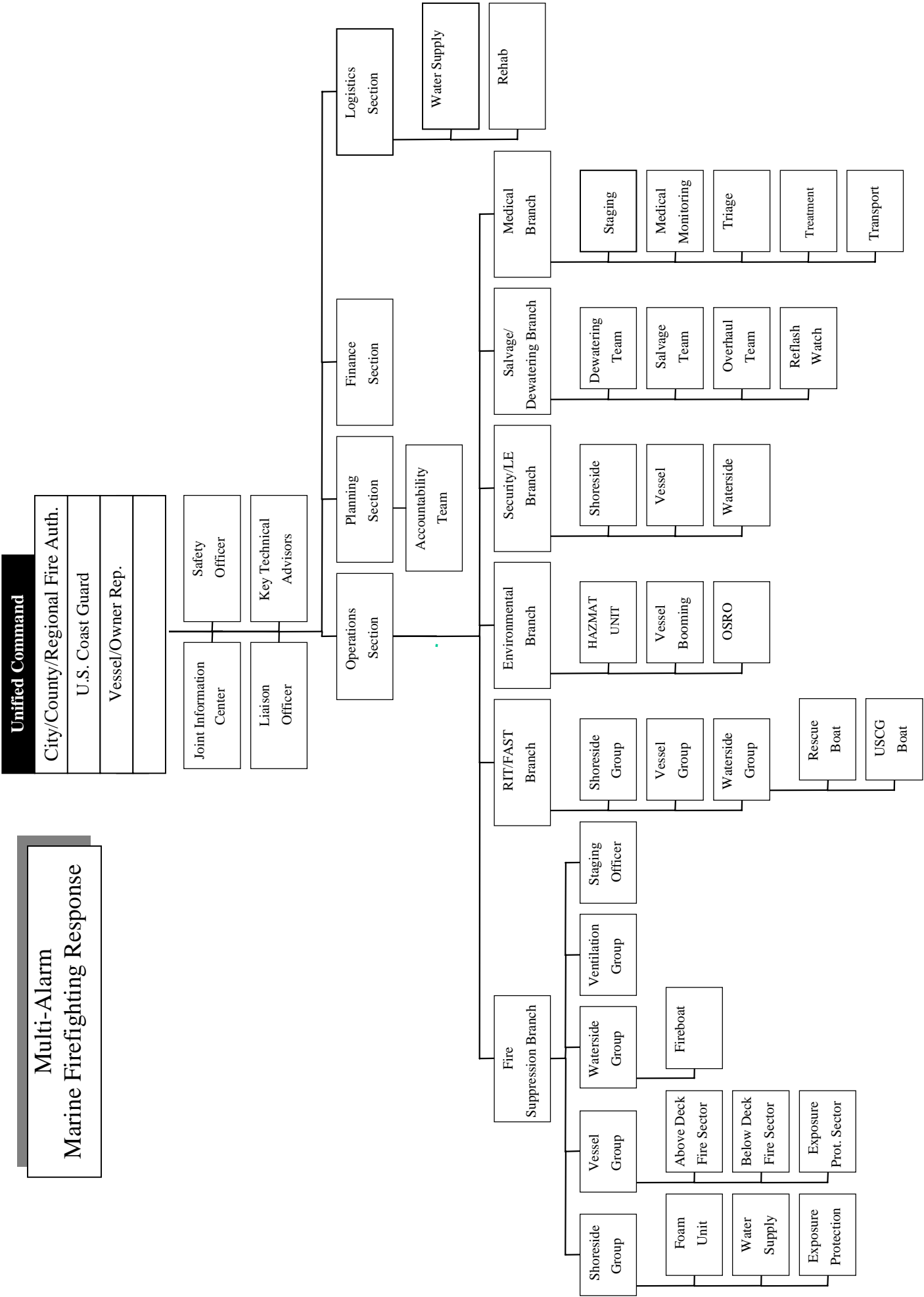


Unified Command

Multi-Division/Group
Marine Firefighting Response

City/County/Regional Fire Auth.
U.S. Coast Guard
Vessel/Owner Rep.





SPECIFIC ICS POSITIONS AND TASK DESCRIPTIONS

Only those ICS positions and tasks specific and unique to Marine Firefighting missions will be described in this section. Persons assigned the common positions consistent with the NIIMS organization should refer to Chapters 6 through 12 of this Manual for their position/task descriptions and checklists.

ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM – The Accountability Team is responsible for signing in and out all personnel that board a vessel. There must be team members at each entry point to log the entry and exit of all personnel that board the vessel during an incident. Accountability for all resources is the responsibility of the IC/UC and is typically delegated to the Planning Section.

FIRE SUPPRESSION BRANCH - The Fire Suppression Branch Director, when activated, is under the direction of the OPS. The Fire Department's initial Operations Section Chief at a maritime fire is often redesignated the Fire Suppression Branch Director under a UC. The Director is responsible for the assigned portion of the IAP that deals with fire suppression activities, assignment of resources within the branch, and reporting progress of control activities, and status of resources within the branch.

SHORESIDE DIVISION - The Shoreside Division Supervisor is responsible for all shoreside fire suppression activities under the Fire Suppression Branch. The supervisor is responsible for the assigned

portion of the IAP that deals with fire suppression activities and exposure protection on shore, assignment of resources within the division, and reporting progress of control of activities, and status of resources within the division.

VESSEL DIVISION - The Vessel Division Supervisor is responsible for all vessel fire suppression activities under the Fire Suppression Branch. The supervisor is responsible for the assigned portion of the IAP that deals with fire suppression activities and exposure protection on a vessel, assignment of resources within the division, and reporting progress of control of activities, and status of resources within the division.

WATERSIDE DIVISION - The Waterside Division Supervisor is responsible for all waterside fire suppression activities under the Fire Suppression Branch. The supervisor is responsible for the assigned portion of the IAP that deals with fire suppression activities and exposure protection on the water, assignment of resources within the division, and/or group, and reporting progress of control of activities and status of resources within the division and/or group. This includes all fireboat activities.

VENTILATION GROUP - The Ventilation Group Supervisor is responsible for coordination of vessel CO₂ suppression systems, coordinating the securing of ventilation, use of positive and/or negative pressure ventilation strategies in coordination with the vessel's crew, as required by the Fire Suppression Branch Director reference in the IAP.

RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM - The Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) is responsible for performing search and rescue of trapped or injured fire fighters. A RIT will normally be assigned in each area the fire activities are taking place, including Shoreside, Vessel and Waterside Branches. On a vessel, a RIT will be assigned at each separate entry point where below deck activities are being conducted. The RIT leader is responsible for the assigned portion of the IAP that deals with fire fighter rescue activities.

RIT TEAM LEADER – The RIT Team Leader is responsible for development and implementation of rescue strategies pertaining to each assigned area.

SALVAGE/DEWATERING BRANCH - The Salvage/Dewatering Branch Director, when activated, is under the supervision of the OPS. This branch is responsible for development of a plan to stabilize the vessel, identify equipment/resources needed, and remove water that is being used in suppression activities. The Salvage/Dewatering Branch should be established as soon as firefighting activities are initiated to ensure control of vessel stability. The Salvage/Dewatering Branch Director is responsible for the assigned portion of the IAP that deals with salvage and dewatering activities, the status of assigned resources within the Branch, and reporting progress to the OPS.

DEWATERING TASK FORCE - The Dewatering Task Force is responsible for implementing the dewatering plan developed for the incident. This may include pumping water using portable pumps, draining of water through scuppers made in the vessel, or transferring water to other areas of the vessel.

SITUATIONS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION

There will be times where special situations develop that will require actions at either a reduced or more elevated level than the previously addressed conditions. In order to facilitate understanding of these situations brief descriptions are provided without organizational structure charts.

The descriptions in this section will address several of the situations that have been identified.

MARITIME INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM – ADVANCE MFF RESPONSE TEAM:

There will be incidents where the Coast Guard will be notified of a fire that may or may not have been contained by the crew on board a vessel enroute to a local port. This will provide the Coast Guard and Fire Department the opportunity to plan for the response. It is often advantageous to send an Advance MFF Response Team to the vessel as soon as possible, and PRIOR to it entering port. This will permit the UC to collect the information needed to make informed decisions, to mitigate the impact of incident, and have adequate appropriate resources available prior to the vessel entering port. The nature of the incident will determine the specific makeup of the team and equipment needed for evaluation.

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSE – UNIFIED COMMAND:

There may be incidents that, due to the magnitude of the fire or outside influences (e.g. flood, earthquake, hurricane), extend the fire incident outside the original jurisdiction. This will require the rapid establishment of a UC and organization that includes all affected states,

counties, jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations. While this organization will be very similar to the Oil Spill response organization detailed on page 16-9. The rapid spread of fire into other jurisdictions requires an organization that can manage often limited and scarce specialized resources, within a region, in a timely fashion. Establishment of appropriate divisions, groups, and branches will be required to coordinate activities over a large area.